

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2006  
REGULAR SESSION  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL  
6:00PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:00 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall. All members were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*School Committee*

The Board moved: to enter into executive session to discuss collective bargaining and subsequently to return to open session.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The Board entered executive session at 6:02 PM.

*(During executive session no substantive motions were made.)*

The Board returned to open session at 7:23 PM.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

Resident Jeff Buster of Trapelo Road asked about a mudflow from the McLean property in the area of Olmstead Drive construction during the recent storm. He feels this was a foreseeable and preventable event. The site is an accident waiting to happen and he would like the Town to take action to prevent any further incidents.

The Board agreed that Community Development Director Glenn Clancy will speak directly with Mr. Buster about these issues.

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

*Town Meeting Issues – Sign Town Meeting Warrant*

The Board moved: to sign the Warrant.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

There was discussion of the order of the articles.

The Board moved: to approve the order of discussion as printed in the Warrant.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

*Article 6 – Size of Signs*

The Board moved: to approve the article.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

*Article 7- Pleasant Street Takings*

It was noted that there will be a \$1 cost for the land taking, which will be remitted out of the mitigation funds provided by McLean.

The Board moved: to approve the article.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

*Article 8 – Sherman Street Land Sale*

Mr. Conti explained that there are two small parcels of land on Sherman Street where the Town has an easement. These parcels were never accepted by the abutters when the subdivision was created in the 1950s. Recently the abutters have expressed interest in buying the land. Research showed that the land is still technically owned by the original developer which is no longer in business. The Town proposes to assess appropriate property taxes on the land, and when the bill is not paid, take possession of the land through a tax title taking. The Warrant article will grant the Selectmen the authority to convey the land for sale once the Town has acquired it.

The Board moved: to approve the article.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

*Article 9 – Frontage Road Land Sale*

Mr. Conti explained that the resident who recently purchased a parcel of state-owned land on Lamoine Street is now interested in obtaining two neighboring parcels of Town land on Frontage Road. Other abutters may also be interested. The Town does not believe the lots are build able. The Board asked Mr. Conti to find out if the lots would be build able if combined with the former state parcel or with the abutting property on Beatrice Circle.

The Board moved: to approve the article.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board expressed its intention to put on the agenda for a future meeting a discussion with Warrant Committee Chair Ralph Jones about the budget process, the Town's reserve policy, and use of free cash.

*Public Hearing on Utility Petition – Verizon Petition for Clover Street (D06\_55)*

Mr. David Conte appeared on behalf of Verizon to request permission to place conduit in the street, which will allow Verizon to reach 1 Clover Street without trespassing on the neighbor's property as they currently must do. Selectman Firenze, being a resident of 1 Clover Street, recused himself and left the room. Community Development Director Glenn Clancy has approved the request.

The Board stressed that the road must be restored afterward to its original condition.

The Board moved: to approve the request.

Motion carried unanimously (2-0).

*Town Administrator's Report*

Mr. Younger reported on the following items:

- An associate member of the Conservation Commission has resigned. His term expires in 2007. There was discussion of whether or not to fill the remainder of his term. The Board agreed to ask the chair of the Commission how they wish to proceed.
- Purecoat North is appealing the court's order to comply with the Town's nuisance complaint. Oral arguments are beginning.
- Tomorrow at 11:30 is the deadline for proposals to be submitted for the redevelopment of the Harvard Lawn Fire Station.
- Verizon cable contract – the executed licenses have been returned and sent to the state. Verizon is now actively soliciting subscribers in Belmont.
- Police Chief Search: There were 25-30 applications received. Preliminary interviews have begun. When these are complete, a number of applicants – about 8 or so - will be chosen to go through the assessment center. 3-5 candidates will come out of that and be brought to the Board before the end of the year.
- Red light cameras: The Town of Swampscott, which was pursuing this idea, has decided to back off for now. Police Chief Lane is attending an MMA seminar on this topic.

- Woodfall Road: The Belmont Country Club may have signed the land exchange agreement but the Town has not received it yet. A meeting has been scheduled to work out the final details of the conservation provisions.
- Center Fire Station: Closing on the purchase is scheduled for November 20.

There was discussion of the timeline for Roads Corporation on the Pleasant Street construction. The original timeline called for the project to be completed this year – that timeline is now out the window. Roads Corporation has gone bankrupt and out of business and Bridges has now taken over the work. The Board requested that an updated timeline be obtained from the project engineer.

The Board recessed its meeting and convened for a meeting as the Light Board at 8:03 PM.

The Board returned from recess at 9:14 PM.

### **ACTION BY CONSENT**

*Approval of Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes (09/18/06, 09/25/06, 09/28/06, 10/17/06)*

The Board moved: to approve the minutes.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

### **OTHER**

Buildings and Facilities manager Kevin Looney is requesting a reserve fund transfer of \$5,000 in funding to clean the fire stations that are being evacuated. There are possible hazardous materials involved which are more expensive to remove.

The Board moved: to recommend the Warrant Committee approve the transfer request.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board considered a proclamation for Vera Dreyer, who is retiring after 12 years of service as a library trustee.

The Board moved: to approve the proclamation resolving to pay tribute for Ms. Dreyer's outstanding contributions and 12 years of service.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board noted it is meeting with the Structure Group this Wednesday at the Chenery School to hear reports from subgroups on streamlining government.

There was discussion of the front doors to Town Hall which are functioning poorly. The Town intends to replace the doors, but the vendors have to be approved by the Historic District Commission. The Town needs two additional approved vendors to provide quotes before moving forward. The Town Hall Auditorium is also being renovated, and specifications have been issued for a new lighting system for theater performances.

The financial software conversion is progressing with training sessions underway. December 31, 2006 is the targeted implementation date and the project is still on schedule.

Mr. Conti asked that the Board consider whether or not to make special parking accommodations in Belmont Center for holiday shopping. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for an upcoming Board meeting with Kevin Foley and Sgt. Ken Hamilton.

Mr. Conti asked for permission to survey the employees as to what they would like in terms of a holiday celebration.

Mr. Conti reported that a public meeting is being held Thursday, November 16, 2006 at the Butler School to discuss proposed parking changes to address concerns on Sycamore Street.

Recreation Commission member Betsy Lipson and Senior Center Building Committee member Neil Hagerty appeared before the Board to discuss Ms. Lipson's request that a bathroom be made available at the new Senior Center for the use of patrons of the Town Field. Mr. Hagerty said most of the lavatories are in the middle of the building and it would be difficult to make any of them accessible from the outside. There are maintenance issues also. The Building Committee will look at the idea again but it is difficult to see how it will be possible. Ms. Lipson said the Recreation Commission's understanding was that this was part of the agreement to move the fence along Beech Street to accommodate parking. That was not the Senior Center Building Committee's understanding.

Mr. Conti asked if the building could be opened on weekends and the athletic groups could contribute to the cost of a custodian, rather than making design changes to the building itself. The Board strongly urged the Building Committee to find a solution that accommodates the need. Mr. Hagerty will convey the Board's request to the Committee.

The Board adjourned at 9:42 PM.

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Thomas G. Younger  
Town Administrator

